



June 15, 2000

Spire To Convert Brownfield To Solar Brightfield; Solar Photovoltaic Array to be One of the World's Largest

Business/Technology Editors

CHICAGO--(BUSINESS WIRE)--June 15, 2000--Spire Corporation (NASDAQ:SPIR), today announced that its business unit, Spire Solar Chicago, will provide a 500 kW photovoltaic (PV) system for deployment on a reclaimed industrial dumping ground and landfill on Chicago's south side. This system will convert an environmental Brownfield into a Solar Brightfield(TM). Announcements relating to this project have previously been made by Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and Illinois Governor George Ryan (June 2 (1)), as well as by ComEd (June 13 (2)). Spire is partnering with ComEd, the City of Chicago, and the State of Illinois to build this solar-powered generating station at the Calumet Open Space Reserve. This 500 kW array will be the first installment of the City's announced 2.5-megawatt PV array, which will be the world's largest when completed covering approximately 10 acres.

Spire Solar Chicago will manufacture and install this initial PV system in monthly increments over a three-year period. Once completed, the first 500 kW will generate approximately 750,000 kWh of pollution-free electricity per year, enough to power 100 homes, and offset over 40,000 tons of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. ComEd will provide \$3 million in funding for the initial installment, with additional site and project funding coming from the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago.

Spire Corporation of Bedford, Massachusetts, recently established Spire Solar Chicago, a PV manufacturing business located on a former Brownfield site, on Chicago's west side. Spire Solar Chicago has recently installed PV systems on the Chicago North Call Center for ComEd and the Frank W. Reilly Elementary School for the City of Chicago. Additionally, the City and ComEd announced on Earth Day that they will work with Spire Solar Chicago to install up to 50 kW on each of the City's nine major museums, adding another 450 kW to Chicago rapidly growing solar energy generation base.

Roger G. Little, CEO of Spire Corporation said, "The Spire Solar Chicago facility is a model for similar Spire Solar businesses to be set up in cities throughout America. Replication of this

business will allow these cities to establish local module production, creating jobs while satisfying local solar electric energy market demands for green electricity.

"Spire uses the term Solar Breeder(R) for photovoltaic module assembly factories that continuously produce specialized "breeder" modules for deployment in large arrays covering contaminated land sites commonly known as Brownfields. The Solar Breeder will transform these renovated sites into Solar Brightfields. The "Brightfield" term was originally coined by the U.S. Department of Energy. "

Spire Corporation is the world's leading supplier of photovoltaic manufacturing equipment, turnkey production lines, and solar energy businesses.

(1) <http://www.ci.chi.il.us/Mayor/SpecialNotices/CalumetArea.2000.6.2.html>

(2) http://www.ucm.com/news/comed/display.asp?a=ComEd&rec_id=442

Visit our web site at www.spirecorp.com

Certain matters discussed in this news release may be forward-looking statements subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated in the forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the risk of dependence on government agencies and other third parties for funding contract research and services, as well as other factors described in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

CONTACT: Spire Corporation
Roger G. Little, President
781-275-6000
rlittle@spirecorp.com